

# The Times-Dispatch

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WEDNESDAY, APRIL 18, 1906.

The opportunity of a lifetime does not come labeled.

## An Emergency Call.

One of the most important reports ever submitted to the Council was presented last night by the special joint committee, Dr. E. H. Williams, chairman, appointed to investigate the Department of Health.

The committee introduces its report by saying that the present Board of Health was organized when Richmond was a city of smaller proportions and of less consequence and before science had made material discoveries as to the cause of certain prevalent diseases and the manner of preventing them; that all three members of the Board of Health are practicing physicians, and that their compensation from the city is so small as to make their public duties secondary to their private work.

That no member of the board has received such training as is now considered in scientific circles essential to fit him for this peculiar and important work, and that the president of the board admits that even if the pay were sufficient to justify him to devote his entire time to the work, he could not now find it convenient to go away and take a course of study which would thoroughly equip him for the position.

That the sanitary officers attached to the Department of Health are entirely inadequate in number and efficiency to meet the requirements of their office.

These simple statements are enough to arouse the community. Nothing is so important as the public health, yet it is proclaimed and confessed that the Department of Health is lamentably inefficient. Richmond claims to be a progressive city, yet its Department of Health is many years behind the scientific progress of the age.

That being the case, the logical conclusion of the committee is that:

**OUR HIGH DEATH RATE IS BUT THE NATURAL CONSEQUENCE OF THE LACK OF EFFORT TO CHECK DISEASE.**

There you are with a plain case of cause and effect. Our system of gathering and compiling vital statistics is careless and slipshod, and it is made to appear that there are more deaths than births. The control of infectious diseases is notably deficient, and no systematic or really efficient means are taken to check their spread.

No organized campaign against tuberculosis has been conducted by the health department.

There are city and State laws prohibiting expectorating on the sidewalks and in public places, but these are not enforced.

Numerous wells and springs are used in various parts of the city. It is recognized by the Board that many cases of sickness are due to this cause. No systematic attempt has been made to correct this evil.

Mosquitoes are recognized as the means of conveying certain diseases. No attempt has been made by the Health Department to locate the breeding places of these pests or to control their propagation—either by its own efforts or by the education of the public in this important matter.

Fellow-citizens, men and women, fathers and mothers, these are the findings of your committee. It is a matter that concerns your health. It is a matter of life and death. Its importance cannot be exaggerated.

Every family uses milk in greater or less quantities. Many little children live on it. Yet the qualifications of two of the inspectors are thus stated: "One had worked in a meat house and the other in a grocery store."

There are no charges or complaints against the present officials. They are doing as well as could be expected, but the Department of Health is manifestly inefficient and it must be reorganized and brought up to date. The committee recommends an ordinance creating a new Board of Health and that the new board shall be composed of five members, one of whom, at least, shall be a doctor of medicine, another a licensed lawyer, and another a civil engineer, and that the board shall be authorized and required to appoint a chief health officer, a city bacteriologist, a plumbing inspector, a food inspector and a clerk. In addition, the ordinance provides rules and regulations for the government of the board, which are fully set forth in our new columns.

The community is indebted to the committee for its frank, fearless and sensible report, and the Council should take no time in taking action. It is an emergency call.

## The Merit System in Politics.

Mr. Charles Scott, who offers as a candidate for the governorship of Mississippi, says in his announcement that he is running solely on his own merits and not on the merits of any of his numerous and honorable competitors.

Mr. Scott has been commended by a

number of Southern newspapers for this mainly statement and we heartily concur. There would be a distinct gain in politics and in the public service if the merit system were adopted and strictly applied by the voters. The American people are so generous that in choosing between candidates they are apt to give their support to the ones they like best, without respect to qualification or fitness. Many an incompetent man has gone into office because he was a good fellow and had the favor of the people. Men do not choose their business associates and do not select their employees upon any such principle. The man who undertakes to run his business in that way will be very apt to fail. He cannot afford to put a friend in charge of an important branch of his business for the sake of friendship only. It must have a man who is able to discharge the duties of the position, and if he cannot "hold down the job," as the saying goes, he must be retrained. It is far cheaper to put him on the pension list than to hold him in a position which he is incompetent to fill.

If voters would only exercise that sort of discretion in selecting officers of government the efficiency of the public service would be greatly improved. We are about to have an important municipal election in Richmond, and it is the bounden duty of every voter to cast his ballot for the candidates who are, in his judgment, best qualified, regardless of his personal preference. This is an obligation which the voter owes not only to himself but to the community. He has no moral right to vote for a candidate whom he knows to be incompetent or morally unfit for the position.

## Gorky and His Socialistic Friends.

There is a good deal of pathos in the promiscuity and completeness with which Gorky has contrived to lose the sympathy which bubbled out to him so abundantly only a few days ago. Landing in a country where he personally has many admirers and the aspirations for popular liberty which he stands for has many more, he was given a reception such as few foreigners have ever had on these shores. Now, after less than a week, he slips obscurely away from town, unattended and apparently unfriended. The chilling of public sentiment has been as instant as thorough, and what is the really pitiful feature of the whole thing, Gorky can hardly be expected to understand why. If he was surprised by the extravagant enthusiasm of his first greeting, he may well feel stunned by the swift with which that enthusiasm has evaporated.

For Gorky, politically speaking, is the real thing in what some of our young millionaires comfortably sitting on padded chairs, have been pleasantly playing at being. It is one thing to assemble by automobile in an elegantly appointed country home and discuss the theatrical doctrines of socialism, and quite another to be thrown with some of those doctrines in healthy working order. In these days scales have doubtless been falling from the eyes of Mr. Robert Hunter and associates. In the alleged relations of Gorky and his lady companion, there is nothing at all inconsistent with the teachings of socialism. It is well known that socialism among other more or less communistic principles, looks to the ready transit from one marriage to another. But this sort of thing, naturally enough, is shocking to well-to-do socialists of the purely long distance variety, and they very probably hasten to avert their eyes. So poor Gorky, rather puzzled, no doubt, to know what it is all about, finds himself very suddenly clapped into Coventry; nor does he observe any of his distinguished new friends in the dejected little party that faithfully followed him from hotel to hotel.

The whole episode is unfortunate and pathetic in several ways, but a single welcome ray of humor is struck across it by the palpable discomfiture in the ranks of the amateur American socialists. The patriotic Advertiser, of Montgomery, has come to the deliberate conclusion that this country needs a National Song, and our contemporary intimates that it will give a year's subscription and a suitable write-up to the man, or woman, who will compose a ditty to the Advertiser's taste. But it admits that there are difficulties, and says that "if a prize is offered we may at once expect the Cutters, the Koozlers and other inspired and soulful songsters to proceed to get busy."

Indeed, the Advertiser asserts that the Cutters, the Koozlers are already busy; at least that one Cutter has perpetrated a few, beginning thus:

"As forth I drove along the road,"  
 That, adds our contemporary, at once brings to mind a soulful song that was current in camps during the great war, the first stanza running thus:

"As I went up the new-cut road,  
 She came down the lane;  
 I met her at the corner,  
 Says I, 'Git along, Liza Jane.'"

We do not know the Cutters or the Koozlers and feel no special interest in them, or in their productions, and if the Advertiser had confined his remarks to legitimate criticism, we should have kept out. But when it drops into quotations and mairs a classic, we should be untrue to the South and Southern traditions and Southern poetry and poets and song-writers, if we held our peace. The song which the Advertiser pretends to quote as follows:

"I went up the new-cut road,  
 She came down the lane;  
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The Charlotte Observer knows that we quote correctly, for, if we mistake not, the song is of Carolina origin. The Advertiser has misquoted it awfully, and in its clumsy version it has destroyed both the meter and the romance. In justice to the sweet singer of Carolina, we hope the Advertiser will print the song as it was

voiced. It is a gem which we wonder the Charlotte Observer has not previously flashed at the Norfolk Landmark's eyes.

## Pay Your Poll Tax.

Newspapers all over Virginia are now calling upon voters to pay their poll tax in order to qualify themselves in the November election. The time is short. It is a strange thing that so many voters in Virginia are indifferent to this important matter. If the State should undertake to disfranchise them they would be up in arms about it and would talk as though they were to be deprived of the most valued privilege of their citizenship, yet, in fact, they think so little of their vote that they will not pay \$1.50 a year to save it.

A sort of indifference is not confined to Virginia. The indifference in New Orleans has been so great that a poll tax association has been formed to urge the voters to pay up and the association has adopted a novel plan of reaching the voters through the pupils of the public schools. Circulars urging the people to pay up will be placed in the hands of the pupils and they will deliver them to their parents or guardians.

The objection may be raised that this mode is too much like introducing politics into the public schools, but the point is not well taken. The circulars are not sent to the members of any particular party, but to all citizens alike, and it is greatly in the interest of good government and especially of the public school system that all male adults, whether voters or not, be induced to pay their head tax. The man who pays his head tax is a better citizen for it and feels a greater interest in his government and its affairs.

Moreover, in Virginia the poll tax goes into the public school fund and it is the only school tax that some patrons of the public schools are assessed with. It is unpalatable for a man who sends his children to the public schools to fail to pay this just tax.

## Dr. Crapsey's Alleged Heresy.

It has been suggested to us that our remarks about the heresy trial of Dr. Crapsey, are possibly open to misconception. It was not our purpose to intimate, of course, that the Episcopal Church should, or would, set its stamp of approval upon one who openly denied some of the cardinal doctrines, not merely of that denomination, but of the Christian church, as that expression is commonly interpreted. But the question as to whether the accused clergyman has actually done this is precisely the point at issue. The charges against him are charges merely: if his denials of Episcopal doctrine were already well established for a trial at all. The court's task will be to determine whether Dr. Crapsey's teachings have been contrary in letter and spirit to those of his church. Should his verdict establish the fact that the church will in all cases insist upon the strictest interpretation of the letter, it would probably appear that the utterances of a number of other clergymen would similarly disqualify them from the further occupation of orthodox pulpits.

## Germany's Way.

Germany is famed for her manufactures and her fine workmen. "Made in Germany" is stamped upon many manufactured articles found in other lands than Germany. Germany's goods are popular because they are of good quality and they are of good quality because they are made by skilled workmen. But how does it happen that Germany has such fine workmen? It does not happen at all. Germany has fine workmen because she has large numbers of splendid industrial schools in which to train them. A statement was recently made by Mr. Charles F. Warner, principal of the Technical High School, of Springfield, Mass., that ten years ago when Prussia had 32,000,000 inhabitants, it maintained nearly 3,000 industrial schools, representing various industries and having an attendance of over 200,000 pupils. That is the secret of Germany's fine workmen and of Germany's industrial progress. By the same proportion we should have in Virginia something like 150 industrial training schools. But how many have we, in fact?

## A Gross Injustice.

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## King Reforming Dress-Coach Style.

Owing to the action of the King, drastic changes in the changes in the style of dress coach are likely to be made during the coming season. Already blue cloth is being used, while velvet collars have been up-to-date, dress coat.

"We hear," says a leader of the tailoring trade, "that the King has expressed his disapproval of double-breasted garments for evening wear, and is having specimen styles prepared for him by leading West End firms, with the view of bringing about a change."

"It is, therefore, highly probable that the time will be on the alert to take up any changes that may be suggested by His Majesty, and the result will be a revolution in the style of evening dress in the immediate future."—Exchange.

## Absent.

"Well, well," exclaimed the returned journeyman, who had been abroad for years, "how things have changed! It doesn't seem like home at all."

"What do you mean?" "It is winter-time, you know?" "What do you mean?" "It is winter-time, you know?" "What do you mean?" "It is winter-time, you know?"

**Dr. Lyon's**  
**PERFECT**  
**Tooth Powder**  
 Cleanses and beautifies the teeth and purifies the breath. Used by people of refinement for over a quarter of a century. Convenient for tourists.  
 PREPARED BY  
**A. W. Lyon, D.D.S.**

## Rhymes for To-Day.

### Spring Fantasies.

By Bliss Come-on.  
 A buttercup nods o'er my garden rail,  
 (O, buttercup, O, buttercup!)  
 With cup so yellow, but eke so pale,  
 (O, flutter, cup! O, what a cup!)  
 And I watch it blow, and a mad white thought  
 Floats high through my random brain—  
 But, alack! it's one of those Swinburne caught!

"The meaning of spring is plain."

A chickadee sings at my window will,  
 (O, chickadee! O, chickadee!)  
 Speak, heart, be he naughty or merely ill?  
 (O, sick-ed he! Or wicked he?)  
 And I list 't his pipe with my large pink ears,  
 And my soul in some purplish glow,  
 And a couple of scorching, yet scintillant tears  
 Trek brilliantly down my nose.

A canteloupe greens on my garden vine,  
 (O, canteloupe! O, canteloupe!)  
 At least, 't I suppose that garden is mine,  
 (O, canteloupe! It shan't elope!)  
 And I glower at it with a red, rich eye,  
 And a heart up swelling to burst;  
 While a wondering whether my neighbor  
 Or I  
 Will manage to get it first.

—H. S. H.

## Merely Joking.

She Read the Magazine.—Tramp: "Lady, I am dying from exposure." Woman: "Are you a tramp, politician or financier?"—Judge.

Familiar Complaint.—Boggs: "How has the world been treating you?" Hoggs: "Not often enough, old man."—Princeton Tiger.

'Aughty.—Patience: "Did the cook give you any notice when she was leaving?" Patience: "No, she hardly noticed us at all."—Yonkers Statesman.

The Dear Girls.—"Yes, indeed," Miss Bragg was saying, "I've had eight proposals this season." "Well, well!" exclaimed Miss Bright, "what perseverence! What's the man's name?"—Philadelphia Press.

Misunderstood.—Lawyer: "Where did he kiss you?" Pretty Plaintiff: "On the mouth, sir." Lawyer: "No, no! You don't understand, I mean where was you?" Pretty Plaintiff, (blushing): "In his arms, sir."—Pick-Me-Up.

Scenery.—"I presume the scenery in the Alps is very different from the mountain scenery at a fratulent thing," answered the return tourist. "The patent medicine signs are printed in French and Italian. That's about all."—Houston Chronicle.

## THIS DAY IN HISTORY

April 18th.

Name Day. Aenas. Sun rises at 5:23, sets at 6:31.

1593—Shakespeare's poem of Venus Adonis is entered in the books at Stationer's Hall.

1794—Jean Joseph de Laborde, a wealthy French merchant, guillotined. He fell a sacrifice to the fury of the revolution, at the age of seventy, for no offense but that of being rich.

1797—Austria made peace with France, ceding the Netherlands, free navigation of the Rhine, etc., to France.

1805—Over 100 persons lost their lives by the great flood of the River Tiber.

1820—In New England the right of suffrage was granted to every male inhabitant of twenty-one years except paupers and persons accused from paying taxes at their own request.

1843—The difficulties in Rhode Island over an attempt to substitute a State Constitution of government for the Charles II. charter assumed a serious aspect.

1861—Harper's Ferry seized by the Confederates.

1878—Emperor William, of Germany, signed the bill withdrawing the rights enjoyed by the Catholic Church. A pro-papal paper in Berlin was suppressed.

1878—President Grant vetoes a bill to reduce his salary to \$25,000.

1880—Great tornado swept over the West, totally destroying the town of Marshall, Mo., killing 100 and wounding 150 persons.

1899—Resolutions introduced in the Massachusetts Legislature revoking the order banishing Roger Williams in 1633.

1904—New York Democrats, by a vote of 301 to 143, instruct their delegates to vote for the nomination of Judge Albert B. Parker for President.

1905—Lower house of Wisconsin Legislature passed railroad bill, fathered by Governor La Follette.

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## Cluett

COAT SHIRTS

have the quality, appearance and wearing qualities of custom made garments. White or color-fast fabrics. On and off a coat.

\$1.50 and more  
**CLUETT, PEABODY & CO.**  
 Largest Makers of Collars and Shirts in the World

## QUERIES AND ANSWERS

Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Will you please answer through your query column who is the superintendent of public instruction and what is his address?  
 A READER.  
 J. D. Eggleston, Richmond, Va.

## The Sunday Law.

1. In a certain county, a judge of a Circuit Court, shot clay pigeons all day Sunday, and instructed his companions to shoot, saying there is no law in Virginia against it. Is he correct?

2. In a suit touching the ownership of a piece of land to be decided by jury, the evidence having been heard, the same judge decided the case without submitting the case to the jury. Had he a right to do so without the consent of both parties?

1. There is a law against hunting, on Sunday (see Pollard's Code, section 2070a), but not against shooting clay pigeons.  
 2. It is impossible to answer intelligently this question, without knowing more about the facts and circumstances.

## Points of Law.

1. Does the law require an agreement to be worded any particular way between parties?

2. Does the law require all parties concerned to meet the requirements of an agreement?

3. Is an agreement binding unless docketed?

4. If A. gives B. his note for \$100, and there is an agreement in same stating if same is collected by law that A. agrees to pay an attorney fee on all cost, can B. legally collect an attorney fee and all additional cost in addition to the \$100? Please answer at an early date.  
 Truly,  
 A SUBSCRIBER.

1. No.  
 2. Yes.  
 3. Yes.  
 4. Yes.

## Line Fences.

You will please inform me through your Queries and Answers: A. and B. own adjoining land, and there is no fence law. The fence was burnt out and A. wants a fence and B. does not. Has A. any right to build all the fence on his own land, or has he (A.) a right to build on the line, and has B. got any right to pay for half of it?  
 A READER.

A. can build the fence on his own land if he so desires.  
 He can build on the line, if he so desires, but he cannot compel B. to pay half if B. chooses to let his land lie open. See Code of Virginia, sections 2563 and 2564.

A Question for the Judge.  
 A has owned a piece of property for a number of years. Six years ago he was told that taxes for one year, eight years previous, had not been paid. A. sees the county officials, and the man who was told to let him know that the taxes had been paid. The former treasurer promises to make matters straight. A. hears nothing for six years; then is again notified that taxes for that year, now fourteen years ago, are delinquent. A. has again presented receipt, but gets no satisfaction. What may A. do to get his taxes paid?

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**CROSSETT**  
**\$4.00 SHOE \$5.00**  
**MAKES LIFE'S WALK EASY**  
 TRADE MARK.

The wise man's feet always go to his head, and the wise man's head always says to his feet, "Get Crossetts."

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